

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 04382 190112Z

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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P 181531Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, LE

SUBJ: CIVAIR - EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 116089

1. FOLLOWING VARIOUS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE CONCERNED, THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A WRITTEN REPLY TO OUR NOTE OF MAR 29, 1976, TRANSMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS CONTAINED IN STATE 073597. DATED MAY 18, 1976, IT READS AS FOLLOWS:

"THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT OF LEBANON PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND REFERS TO ITS LETTER NO. 65 DATED MAR 29, 1976, REGARDING THE AGREEMENT ON AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON IN WHICH IT PROPOSED TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT UNTIL DEC 31, 1976, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING UNDERSTANDINGS:
(1) THE LEBANESE ALL-CARGO AIRLINES WILL NOT INCREASE THEIR CAPACITY ON THEIR U.S. ROUTES;
(2) THE LEBANESE COMBINATION AIRLINE WILL NOT INTRODUCE AIR SERVICE BETWEEN LEBANON AND THE UNITED STATES;
(3) THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES WILL ACCEPT PROPOSED SCHEDULE CHANGES BY THE U.S. DESIGNATED AIRLINE.

"THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT IS PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE EXTENSION OF THE AGREEMENT UNTIL DEC 31, 1976, AS

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 04382 190112Z

WELL AS THE PROVISIONS MENTIONED IN ITEMS (1) AND (2)

AS OUR CARGO DESIGNATED AIRLINE HAS NO PLANS TO INCREASE ITS CAPACITY DURING THIS PERIOD AND THAT OUR COMBINATION AIRLINE DOES NOT PLAN TO OPERATE IN THE U.S. DURING THAT SAME PERIOD.

"AS FAR AS ITEM (3) IS CONCERNED, WE ALSO AGREE WITH ITS CONTENTS ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SCHEDULES CHANGES BY THE U.S. DESIGNATED AIRLINE SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF CONSULTATIONS DATED JUN 13, 1972.

" WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EARLY CONFIRMATION OF THE ABOVE AND AS SOON AS IT IS RECEIVED BY US WE WILL CONSIDER THAT THE AGREEMENT ON AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL DEC 31, 1976.

ADEL OSSEIRANE
/S/
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND TRANSPORT"

COMMENT: THE EMBASSY HOPES THAT THE ABOVE REPLY WILL MEET THE DEPARTMENT'S REQUIREMENTS AND THAT THE CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT CAN NOW BE EXTENDED THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. AS IS KNOWN, LEBANON IS ON THE BRINK OF POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DESTRUCTION. CIVIL AVIATION IS ONE OF THE FEW SEGMENTS OF THE ECONOMY THAT IS STILL FUNCTIONING DESPITE TREMENDOUS ODDS AND THE PUBLIC STATEMENTS WE HAVE MADE PROFESSING INTEREST IN THE COUNTRY'S RECOVERY AND RECONSTRUCTION WOULD OBVIOUSLY LOSE SOME CREDENCE IF WE TAKE WHAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED BY MANY AS TOO HARSH AN ADVANTAGE AT A TIME WHEN THE COUNTRY IS IN DIRE NEED.

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